

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In a final Office Action dated September 11, 2007, the Examiner rejected pending Claims 38, 39, 46 and 47. This Amendment and Response comprises the Applicant's reply to the aforementioned Office Action, wherein the Applicant seeks an Advisory Action and Notice of Allowability.

In the above-referenced Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 38, 39, 46, and 47 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,259,951 to Zimmerman. The Applicant has amended Claims 38 and 46 to further distinguish over Zimmermann. More particularly, the Applicant has amended Claims 38 and 46 to include "an upper seal member comprising a first mating surface and a first width W_1 of runout material," and "a lower seal member comprising a second mating surface and a second width W_2 of runout material," "wherein the first width W_1 of runout material of the upper seal member does not overlap the second width W_2 of runout material of the lower seal member when the first and second mating surfaces interlock." These limitations in combination with the remaining limitations are not disclosed by Zimmerman. At least Figs. 1-3 of the present application provide support for these limitations. Further support is also found in the specification as filed, at page 10, lines 5-12 (alternatively, see ¶ [0069] of U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2004/0187273 corresponding to the present application).

With regard to the cited reference, Zimmerman discloses adjacent edges 8 and 9 that overlie each other and extend in the same direction, such as for a bag or envelope, and thus, overlap. "As shown in Fig. 2 of the drawings, the strips 6 and 7 are secured to adjacent edges 8 and 9 of an envelope or bag. . . ." (Zimmerman, col. 3, ll. 34-36.) Accordingly, Zimmerman fails to disclose the invention as claimed in amended Claims 38 and 46. Since Zimmerman fails to disclose all of the limitations of Claims 38 and 46, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of Claims 38 and 46, and to further withdraw the rejection of Claims 39 and 47.

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Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: November 12, 2007